

I would like to comment on the way the erate funds are distributed. It seems that there is more people applying than when it first started, therefore not everyone will get funded. I understand, this but my concern is that the 90% schools are getting their requests year after year and the other schools are left out. We have not been funded since year 1. We are a 56% school, but have just as many needs as the 90% schools. It seems only fair that you consider the fact that our needs are legitimate also and we could use some of that money to upgrade our current system. I don't believe that any school needs the kind of money the 90% schools are getting year after year. Those are generally small schools and I believe that they shouldn't need to upgrade their systems to have the latest and greatest while we medium and large schools are left to try to make our year 1 equipment work. I believe there are 90% schools out there building small technological empires or not using the equipment at all, but are just taking the money because they can. Do you ever check to see if the equipment is being used? We are just as needy as they are in the technology area. Just because our percentage isn't as high doesn't mean we are a wealthy school district. I would like to see the way money is allocated changed or the way you figure the percentages. Last year it was suggested that you only get to apply every other year. If you get funded one year you can't apply the next and I believe that is a great idea. Maybe some of us could get some money occasionally. Erate is and has been a great avenue for us to bring internet into our schools. But I believe it is time for a change in policy and funding procedures.